

More Photos



Weekend viewers enjoy watching chum salmon spawning in the wild.



Viewing salmon at Fiscus Creek, a tributary to Kennedy Creek



One of many interpretive signs along the Trail

2008 Feature Accomplishment

Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail

Resource Challenge

Kennedy Creek winds from Summit Lake into Puget Sound at Totten Inlet, providing two and a half miles of habitat for a very healthy chum salmon run. Kennedy Creek provides an excellent opportunity for the public to view wild salmon, however, accommodating large numbers of people in a natural area without negative impacts is challenging.



Chum salmon spawning in Kennedy Creek

Project Summary and Results

To meet this challenge, a community partnership built the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail in 2000. Located between Shelton and Olympia, the trail represents one of the finest interpretive salmon trails in Western Washington and is open to the public one month out of the year. Mostly ADA accessible, the trail winds through the forest and offers excellent opportunities to see chum salmon spawning in Kennedy and Fiscus Creeks. Interpretive signs teach about salmon life cycle, spawning behaviors, and the importance of habitat preservation.

Each year school groups from Mason, Thurston, Pierce and Grays Harbor Counties rely on the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail as part of their salmon and water quality curriculum. In 2007 the trail welcomed 2,731 local school groups. In addition, groups from preschools and retirement communities look forward to their annual visit to the trail, and 2,400 people visited during the weekends.

Every November Mason Conservation District coordinates the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail education and public viewing activities. Crucial to the success of the Trail is the volunteer program, comprised of 50 dedicated docents who receive classroom and hands-on training. This knowledge is then passed on to the thousands of visitors that flock to the trail during the season.

Key Project Partners

South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, Green Diamond Resource Company, Taylor Shellfish, the Squaxin Island Tribe

Contact Information

John Bolender, District Manager
450 W Business Park Rd.,
Shelton, WA 98584
(360) 427-9436, Ext. 18
<http://www.masoncd.org/>

Board of Supervisors:
Gary Schuyten, Chair
Katrinka Hibler, Vice Chair
Brett Bishop, Auditor
Mark Biser, Member
Joseph Kropf, Member

More Work To Do

The condition of Hood Canal is a high priority for Mason Conservation District. The private landowners who reside in watersheds that drain into Hood Canal need technical assistance so they have the information they need to be a solution to bringing the canal back to good health.